Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 18, 2002 TO MARCH 22, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	February			The Canadian CPI rose 0.6% in February. This advance was primarily due to higher prices for food, tobacco products and electricity. The Alberta CPI increased 0.5% in February and is up 1.6% from February 2001.
Alberta	120.7	0.5%	1.6%	
Canada	116.9	0.6%	1.5%	
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing ($ millions)	January			Canadian manufacturing shipments increased 3.1% in January to $41.7 billion. The increase was widespread across industries. The inventory to shipments ratio fell to 1.49, its lowest level since May. Alberta manufacturing shipments rose 2.4% in January but are down 14.4% on a year-over-year basis. The year-over-year decrease for Alberta was largely due to decreases in the petroleum and coal products (-34.0%) and chemical products (-25.5%) sectors.
Alberta	3,273	2.4%	-14.4%	
Canada	41,680	3.1%	-6.5%	
Retail sales	January			Canadian retail sales rose 1.1% in January. This increase was the fourth consecutive monthly gain, led by general merchandise (2.2%) and drug and patent medicine (2.1%) stores. Alberta retail sales rose 2.6% in January, and are up 10.8% from January 2001.
Alberta	3,066	2.6%	10.8%	
Canada	25,251	1.1%	8.1%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	February			The Composite Leading Index rose 1.1% in February, the fifth consecutive gain and the largest since early in 2000. The housing index continued to increase briskly, rising 4.5% in February after a 5.0% increase in January. Seven of the ten components posted increases in February, the same as in January. The index is up 5.3% over February 2001.
	170.9	1.1%	5.3%	